

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1-23. Cancelled.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of inducing organized, functional bone formation at a site of bone infirmity in a human, comprising the steps of:

- (a) transforming a cultured mesenchymal stem cell with a DNA encoding human bone morphogenetic protein 2 (BMP-2);
- (b) culturing the cultured mesenchymal stem cell transformed in step (a), under conditions enabling expression of said DNA encoding bone morphogenic protein 2; and
- (c) implanting said cultured mesenchymal stem cell in the absence of an exogenously supplied osteoinductive matrix at a site of bone infirmity,

whereby autocrine and paracrine effects of expressed human bone morphogenic protein 2 at said site of bone infirmity result in organized, functional bone formation, thereby inducing organized, functional bone formation at a site of bone infirmity.

25 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said mesenchymal stem cell is a primary cell.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said mesenchymal stem

APPLICANT(S): MOUTSATSOS, Ioannis et al.
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cell is a cultured cell line.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said mesenchymal stem cell expresses an endogenous bone morphogenic^{ic}[[esis]] protein receptor.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said mesenchymal stem cell expresses parathyroid hormone and a parathyroid hormone receptor protein.

29. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said cultured mesenchymal stem cell is implanted in the absence of any exogenously supplied matrix.